

## REMARKS

The specification and claims 16, 23, 24, 32, and 37 have been amended. Claims 28, 30, 36, and 38 have been canceled. Claims 1-27, 29, 31-35, 37, and 39-54 remain in the application. The Examiner allowed claims 1-22 and 39-54.

After the applicants' election of Species F and the Examiner's allowance of a generic claim, the Examiner withdrew claims 24-38 as directed to unelected species. The current amendment of claim 24 makes it depend from allowed claim 19. Consequently, claim 24 and its dependent claims 25-27, 29, and 31 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 28 and 30 have been canceled. The current amendment of claim 32 makes it depend from allowed claim 39. Its dependent claim 37 has been amended to depend directly from claim 32. Consequently, claim 32 and its dependent claims 33-35 and 37 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 36 and 38 have been canceled. Applicants make these amendments to the previously withdrawn claims without prejudice and reserve the right to resubmit them in a divisional application.

Applicants have amended claim 16 to insert the article "the" to correct an obvious typographical error in the original claims. This amendment is for cosmetic purposes only and not for reasons related to patentability.

The Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonnet (US 5,921,378). Applicants have amended claim 23 to define the motor as "located to ride with the transport element." In FIG. 12 of Bonnet, the motor (154, not 160 as the Examiner mistakenly labeled it in the Office Action) is stationarily attached to the lead screw assembly 148 and does not ride with the pusher member 130. Because Bonnet does not teach every element of

claim 23, it cannot anticipate claim 23, and the rejection is overcome. Claim 23 should be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended paragraph 55 of the specification to insert the preposition "in," clearly omitted from the specification by mistake. Neither this cosmetic amendment nor any of the amendments to the claims adds new matter.

In view of these remarks, claims 1-27, 29, 31-35, 37, and 39-54 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 23, entry of the other amendments, and early allowance of the application.

If the Examiner thinks a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

This amendment is being sent within three months of the Office Action so no extension of time petition fee should be due. No new claims are being added so no extra claim fee should be due. If, however, fees are considered due, authorization to charge any extra claim fee or any other fees associated with this response to Deposit Account No. 12-0090 is hereby given.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert S. Lapeyre et al.

Date: Apr. 14, 2004

By: James T. Cronvich

James T. Cronvich  
Reg. No. 33163  
Laitram, L.L.C.  
220 Laitram Lane  
Harahan, LA 70123  
Telephone: (504) 733-6739, ext. 1243  
Fax: (504) 734-5233